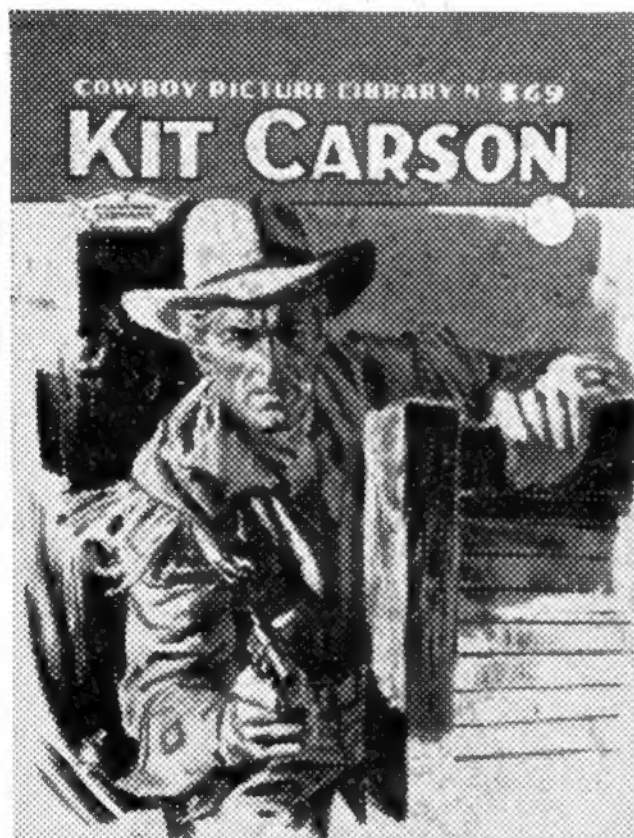


DANGER DIVES DEEP

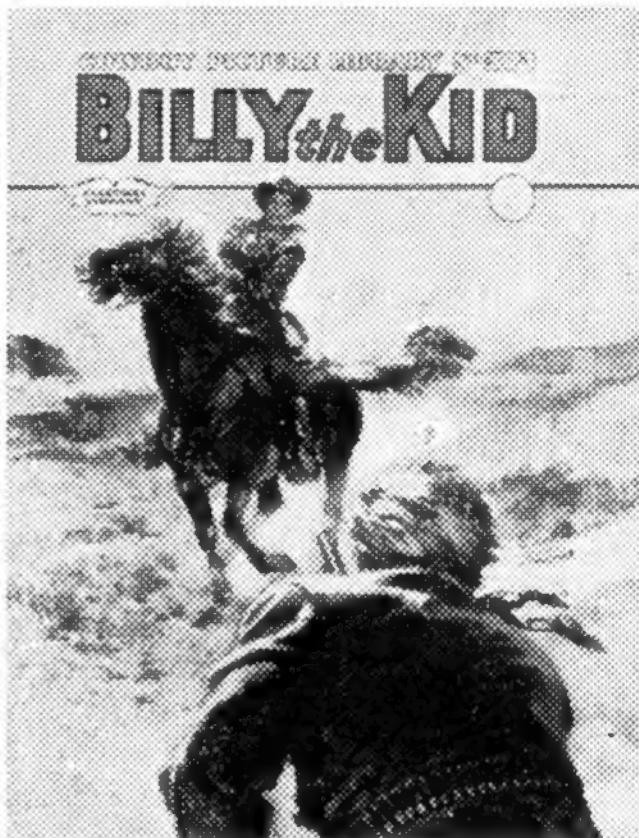


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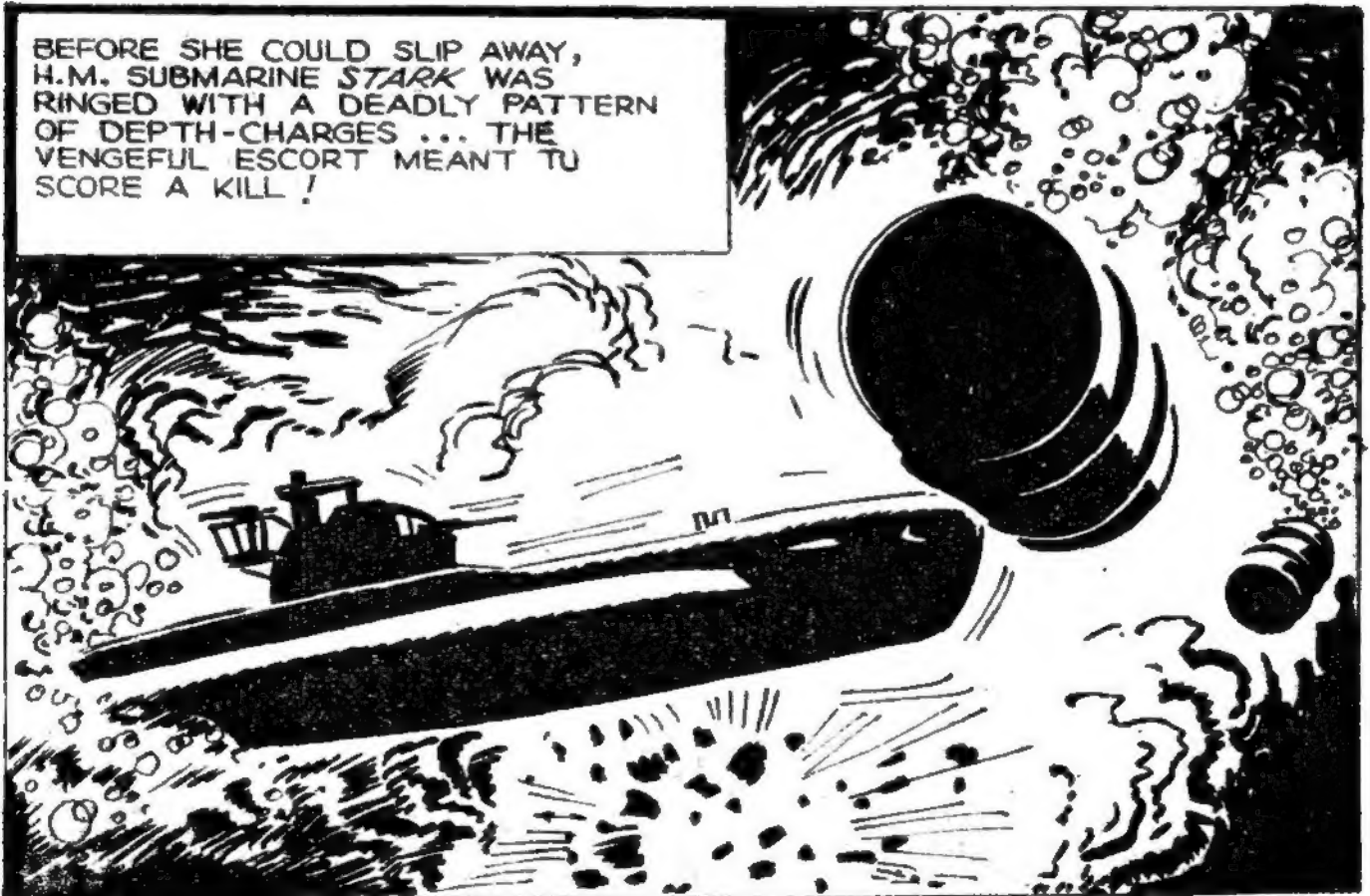
DO NOT MISS THEM!

Chapter 1 **NEW COMMAND**

AUGUST, 1942. IN THE HEAVILY MINED SHALLOWS OFF THE NORTH AFRICAN COAST, A BRITISH SUBMARINE HAD IMPUDENTLY STRUCK AT AN AXIS CONVOY REINFORCING ROMMEL'S DESERT ARMY...

THE BRITISH
UNDERSEABOAT
WILL NOT ESCAPE.
WE HAVE HIM
TRAPPED!

BEFORE SHE COULD SLIP AWAY,
H.M. SUBMARINE *STARK* WAS
RINGED WITH A DEADLY PATTERN
OF DEPTH-CHARGES ... THE
VENGEFUL ESCORT MEANT TO
SCORE A KILL!



DANGER DIVES DEEP

WHILE MIGHTY ARMIES, VAST ARMADAS AND BOMBER FLEETS BATTLED FOR SUPREMACY IN THE MAIN ARENAS OF WORLD WAR TWO, SMALL UNITS OF SKILLED AND DETERMINED MEN OFTEN CREATED DAMAGE AND CASUALTIES OUT OF ALL PROPORTION TO THEIR NUMBERS. SUCH MEN WERE THE DAREDEVILS OF THE ROYAL NAVY WHO SAILED TO THE UNDERSEA WAR ASTRIDE HUMAN TORPEDO CHARIOTS AND IN MIDGET SUBMARINES...



Danger Dives Deep

3

SHOCK WAVES STRUCK THE SUBMARINE'S SLEEK HULL LIKE BLOWS FROM A GIANT BATTERING RAM, AND STARK WAS HURLED ON HER BEAM-ENDS. INSIDE, TURMOIL REIGNED ...



RELENTLESSLY, THE ATTACK WENT ON--THUDDING BLOW AFTER BLOW--UNTIL IT SEEMED THAT THE STEEL WALLS COULD TAKE NO MORE. WITH A TERRIBLE JAR, SHE STRUCK BOTTOM AND THE LIGHTS WENT OUT ...



Danger Dives Deep

THE SHARP, COMMANDING VOICE OF THE SUBMARINE'S FIRST LIEUTENANT, SANDY STEWART, INSTANTLY STILLED THE RISING TREMORS OF PANIC AMONGST THE CREW ...



EMERGENCY
LIGHTING
RIGGED, SIR!

VERY GOOD! NOW WE'LL
SET ABOUT GETTING THINGS
ORGANISED -- WE'RE NOT
FINISHED YET -- *AS THE
HUN WILL FIND OUT!*

THE SICK BAY ATTENDANT HAD MADE A QUICK EXAMINATION OF THE UNCONSCIOUS CAPTAIN AND HIS REPORT WAS GRIM ...



COMMANDER
RAWSON HAS
A FRACTURED
SKULL, SIR!
HE'S IN A
BAD WAY...

YOU'RE IN
COMMAND
NOW, SANDY.

BLOW ALL TANKS!
STARBOARD
TWENTY...
SLOW AHEAD
TOGETHER!



Danger Dives Deep

BUT H.M.S. STARK HAD SURVIVED -- FOR THE MOMENT!



ICE-CALM, THE YOUNG LIEUTENANT WAITED AS THE SUBMARINE WEAVER A BLIND COURSE BETWEEN THE TERRIBLE MINES. DEATH WAS BUT A TOUCH AWAY...



Danger Dives Deep

7

THE CONVOY WAS A MILE AWAY BUT STARK WAS CLOSING WITH IT. THE ATTACK PERISCOPE BROKE SURFACE -- AND STEWART GAZED UPON HIS ERSTWHILE ATTACKER ...



THE ENEMY'S GUARD HAD BEEN RELAXED AND THE WHITE TORPEDO TRACK ARROWING TOWARDS THE GERMAN DESTROYER'S SIDE WAS NOT SEEN UNTIL IT WAS TOO LATE.



Danger Dives Deep

STARX, BRILLIANTLY HANDLED BY HER TEMPORARY SKIPPER, MADE A DEVASTATING ATTACK ON THE ENEMY SHIPPING. ROMMEL'S VITALLY NEEDED REINFORCEMENTS OF TANKS AND MEN WOULD NEVER REACH AFRICA'S SHORES.



AS THEY FIRED THE LAST OF THEIR TORPEDOES, THE RATING AT THE SOUND DETECTOR APPARATUS TURNED TO STEWART ...



Danger Dives Deep

STARK NOSED DOWN AT FULL SPEED -- ESCAPING BENEATH THE SINKING HULL OF ONE OF HER VICTIMS -- AND COMPLETELY CONFUSING THE ENEMY ANTI-SUB DEVICES ...



AND THE ITALIAN DESTROYER ESCORT WAS LEFT TO SEARCH AN EMPTY OCEAN ...

SUB CONTACT
LOST, CAPITANO ...

MAMA MIA!
LET US GET
BACK TO THE
CONVOY BEFORE
MORE SHIPS
ARE LOST!



Danger Dives Deep

FIFTEEN HOURS LATER, LIEUTENANT STEWART PROUDLY BROUGHT THE VICTORIOUS *STARK* HOME TO HER MALTA BASE ...



COMMANDER (SUBMARINES) GAVE SANDY STEWART THE NEWS HE HAD TRAINED AND WORKED FOR SINCE JOINING THE SUBMARINE SERVICE ...

I'M SENDING YOU BACK TO ENGLAND, STEWART...THERE'S A BRAND-NEW SUBMARINE WAITING FOR A BRAND-NEW SKIPPER.



H.M.S. WARFISH IS HER NAME ... **AND SHE'S YOURS!** THE JOB IS ALSO WORTH AN EXTRA HALF-RING ON YOUR SLEEVE...

MY OWN SUB! SHE'LL BE THE BEST IN ANY NAVY, SIR -- I PROMISE YOU THAT!



Danger Dives Deep

11

THE FLIGHT HOME FROM MALTA SEEMED FAR TOO LONG AND TEDIOUS FOR THE EAGER YOUNG MAN WHO WAS TO COMMAND *H.M.S. WARFISH*.



AND SO STEWART REPORTED TO THE SUBMARINE BASE, *DOLPHIN*, AT GOSPORT. THERE, HE EAGERLY TOOK COMMAND OF THE ROYAL NAVY'S LATEST SUBMARINE, A SLIM, STREAMLINED GIANT OF 400 TONS ~ FAST AND VERY EFFICIENT.



Danger Dives Deep

THE ORDER WAS PROMPTLY ISSUED.
**LIEUTENANT-COMMANDER
STEWART WILL PROCEED
ON LEAVE!**

NO BUTS, STEWART!
I DON'T WANT YOU HERE
FOR A WEEK! LEAVE
SOMETHING FOR
OTHERS
TO DO!

...THEY SAY
HE CARES MORE
FOR HIS OLD
SUBMARINE THAN
HE DOES FOR
HIS WIFE!

LIKE A CAPTIVE WOLF, STEWART
IMPATIENTLY LIVED OUT HIS SEVEN
LONG DAYS' LEAVE ...

... AND SHE'LL DIVE TO
SIX HUNDRED FEET
EASY WITHOUT CRACKING
UP ...

HOW HE LONGED TO TAKE HIS OWN SHIP OUT ON PATROL ... TO
MATCH HIS WITS AND SKILL WITH THE RUTHLESS ENEMY...

I'M SORRY I'VE DONE LITTLE
BUT RAMBLE ON ABOUT
WARFISH, JANE ... ON MY
LAST FEW HOURS WITH
YOU, TOO ...

I KNOW WHAT
THIS COMMAND
MEANS TO YOU,
SANDY. BRING
HER SAFELY
HOME EACH
TRIP ... FOR
ME!

H.M.S. *WARFISH* WAS TO START HER SEA TRIALS THE FOLLOWING DAY AND STEWART LEFT HOME IN GOOD TIME TO JOIN HER. THE AIR RAID WARNING HAD SOUNDED ...



I'LL GO TO THE STATION ALONE, JANE I THINK YOU SHOULD TAKE SHELTER WITH THE OTHERS ...

GOOD LUCK WITH *WARFISH*, SANDY!

ENEMY BOMBERS WERE DRONING OVERHEAD AND THE A.A. GUNS THUNDERING AS STEWART'S TAXI MOVED OFF ALONG LONDON'S BLACKED-OUT STREETS. SUDDENLY, THERE WAS A TREMENDOUS CRASH AND THE CAB CAME TO A SHUDDERING HALT ... ONE BOMB HAD FALLEN ONLY A FEW YARDS AWAY.



WE'D BETTER GET OUT OF HERE, SIR ... THERE'S DEBRIS FALLING ALL ROUND US ..

BUT I **MUST** GET TO WATERLOO RAILWAY STATION BY MIDNIGHT ...

Danger Dives Deep

STEWART SCRAMBLED OUT OF THE CAB WITH HIS SUITCASE. AN AIR RAID WARDEN WAS DASHING PAST TOWARDS THE GUTTED BUILDING AND THE SUB COMMANDER HAILED HIM ...



OFFICER! HELP ME TO FIND A TAXI -- I MUST RETURN TO MY SHIP! **IT'S VITAL!**

SO'S MY JOB, SIR!
PEOPLE ARE BURIED IN A SHELTER BELOW BRACKSTONE BUILDINGS ...



ICY FINGERS OF FEAR CLAWING AT HIS SPINE, STEWART RUSHED TO JOIN THE RESCUE SQUADS IN THE MACABRE LIGHT OF THE BURNING BUILDINGS ...



WARFISH - DUTY - THE TIME - ALL WERE FORGOTTEN ONLY ONE THING MATTERED FOR THE MOMENT -- *TO SAVE LIFE!*



THE BARRAGE INCREASED IN INTENSITY AS THE HUN BOMBERS INDISCRIMINATELY POURED THEIR DEADLY CARGOES INTO THE CARNAGE BELOW ...



Danger Dives Deep

A STICK OF HIGH EXPLOSIVE STRADDLED THE ALREADY BATTERED STREETS ...



... AND WHEN THE DUST AND SMOKE HAD SETTLED...

THE SAILOR! HE'S HALF-BURIED!

HE SAVED OTHERS... NOW LET'S SAVE HIM!



IT WAS NOT THE END FOR SANDY STEWART... BUT *H.M.S. WARFISH* DID HER FIRST PATROL WITHOUT HER NEW SKIPPER!

... AND *WARFISH* SANK FOUR ENEMY SHIPS ... YOUNG *WARBURTON* MADE A GRAND REPLACEMENT SKIPPER. BUT WE'VE GOT ANOTHER JOB FOR YOU, MY BOY...



I JUST WANT A SUBMARINE TO COMMAND, SIR, THAT'S ALL...

Chapter 2

HUMAN TORPEDOES



STEWART COULD SCARCELY BRING HIMSELF TO REPLY TO THE GREETING, SO BITTER WAS HIS DISAPPOINTMENT, AND HIS GLOOMY ATTITUDE WAS TAKEN AT ITS FACE VALUE ...



Danger Dives Deep

BUT THE NEW ARRIVAL WAS GIVEN LITTLE TIME TO SETTLE -- OR BEMOAN HIS FATE -- FOR AN IMMENSE NUMBER OF TASKS AWAITED ATTENTION AT THE EXPERIMENTAL STATION ...



SET STEWART A PERILOUS SUBMARINE PATROL PROBLEM AND THE SOLUTION WOULD SPRING INSTINCTIVELY TO HIS MIND. BUT HERE HE WAS OUT OF HIS DEPTH ...



Danger Dives Deep

19

GUNNER'S MATE HARLOW AND LEADING TORPEDOMAN YOUNG -- THEY WERE THE HANDS THE YOUNG OFFICER HAD HEARD WERE EXPERTS AT ALMOST ANYTHING ...



IT NEEDED ONLY AN HOUR'S PRACTICE UNDERWATER FOR STEWART TO FEEL THE FIRST GLIMMERINGS OF INTEREST IN THE STRANGE METHOD OF WARFARE -- AN INTEREST THAT WAS TO GROW APACE UNTIL WITHIN THREE WEEKS, STEWART HAD SURPRISED EVEN HIS EXPERT INSTRUCTORS ...



Danger Dives Deep.

A STRONG BOND OF FRIENDSHIP AND RESPECT WAS FORGED BETWEEN THE EX-SUBMARINE OFFICER AND THE TWO MEN ...



DURING THE MONTHS THAT FOLLOWED, STEWART PLAYED A FULL PART IN THE TRAINING OF THE UNDERWATER COMMANDOS, BRINGING THEM TO A HIGH PEAK OF EFFICIENCY. AT LAST, THE TIME FOR ACTION CAME ...



CAPTAIN ROBSON, R.N., WENT ON TO GIVE MORE DETAILS OF THE MISSION AND WHEN HE HAD FINISHED, STEWART SPOKE UP URGENTLY....

IF MY BOYS ARE GOING TO RAID A HARBOUR IN NAZI-OCCUPIED FRANCE ~ I WANT TO BE IN ON IT, SIR!

YOU'RE A VALUABLE TRAINING OFFICER, LIEUTENANT-COMMANDER STEWART... REQUEST DENIED!



THE YOUNG OFFICER'S HEART SANK AND HOT PROTESTS SPRANG TO HIS LIPS, BUT BEFORE HE COULD VOICE THEM, AN EARTH-SHAKING EXPLOSION ROCKED THE ROOM, SHATTERING THE GLASS IN THE WINDOWS AND DOOR...

GOOD GRIEF! WHAT WAS THAT?



Danger Dives Deep

STANDING AMIDST THE SMOKING REMAINS OF THEIR WORKSHOP HUT WERE HARLOW AND YOUNG. CAPTAIN ROBSON LET OUT AN IRATE SHOUT ...



SANDY STEWART, AS EXECUTIVE OFFICER, WAS ORDERED TO DEAL WITH THE MISCREANTS ...



A PLAN HATCHED IN STEWART'S MIND. WAS IT NOT SAID THAT HARLOW AND YOUNG COULD WANGLE ANYTHING ?

I WON'T ASK WHERE YOU TWO GOT THE BUZZ THAT THERE'S AN OP ON, AND I'LL FORGET THIS WHOLE BUSINESS -- **ON ONE CONDITION!** MAKE SURE YOU TAKE A SPARE SET OF EQUIPMENT WITH YOU.



THE CHARIOTÉERS MOVED SOUTH IN GREAT SECRECY TO A SUBMARINE BASE ...

DON'T FIDGET ABOUT ON THAT CRATE TOO MUCH, LAD -- IT'S FULL OF THE HARLOW-YOUNG PATENT LIMPET MINES !



COR ! WHAT'RE YOU TRYING TO DO -- SAVE THE JERRIES A JOB ?

UNDER COVER OF DARKNESS, THE CHARIOTS WERE CLAMPED TO THE FORE AND AFT DECKS OF THE MOTHER SUBMARINES, ONE OF WHICH WAS --- **WARFISH !**

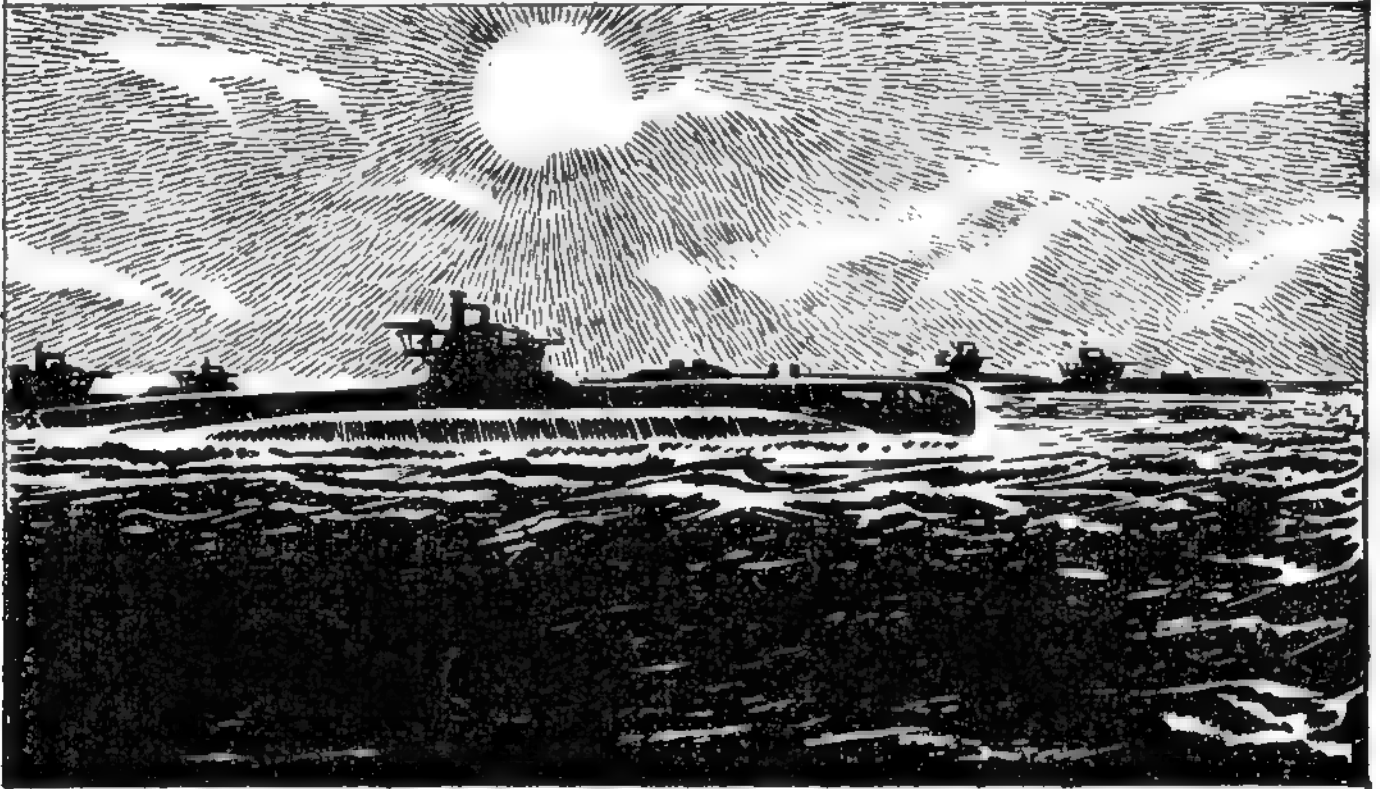
LIEUTENANT-COMMANDER STEWART! WHY, YOU WERE THE ONE WHO SHOULD HAVE COMMANDED THIS SUBMARINE -- WEREN'T YOU ?

THAT'S RIGHT, BUT IT'S PAST HISTORY NOW. **BUT I WOULD LIKE A CRUISE FOR OLD TIME'S SAKE ...**



Danger Dives Deep

THE FLOTILLA OF CHARIOT-BEARING SUBMARINES SET COURSE FOR ST. MALO IN ENEMY-OCCUPIED FRANCE -- AND ON BOARD ONE OF THEM WAS SANDY STEWART!



THE JOURNEY TOWARDS THE HOSTILE COAST WAS MADE SUBMERGED AND AT THE APPOINTED RENDEZVOUS, LIEUTENANT-COMMANDER WARBURTON BROUGHT *WARFISH* UP TO PERISCOPE DEPTH ...

FIVE MILES FROM
DESTINATION -- PREPARE
TO SURFACE. CHARIOTEERS,
STAND BY TO
DEPART!



THERE WAS A BUSTLE OF MOVEMENT IN THE TINY CONTROL COMPARTMENT AND SUDDENLY WARBURTON STARED WIDE-EYED AT STEWART *IN FULL CHARIOTEER'S KIT!*



A DOZEN HUMAN TORPEDOES WERE MAN-HANDLED INTO THE WATER AND AT A GIVEN SIGNAL, THEY POINTED THEIR BLUNT, EXPLOSIVE-PACKED NOSES TOWARDS LAND.



Danger Dives Deep

PACKED WITH NAZI SHIPPING, THE PORT OF ST. MALO OFFERED NO EASY ACCESS TO FURTIVE APPROACH. THE APPROACHES WERE MINED, HEAVY STEEL NETS COVERED THE SWEEP CHANNELS.



BUT THESE WERE THE OBSTACLES CHARIOTEERS HAD TRAINED TO OVERCOME. A JAGGED GAP WAS CUT IN THE BOOM NET AND SANDY STEWART LED HIS MEN INTO THE SILENT ATTACK ...



FAT TARGETS LAY AHEAD -- AND AN EVER-WATCHFUL ENEMY! CAUTIOUSLY, STEWART EASED HIS CHARIOT TOWARDS THE SURFACE AND IMMEDIATELY SIGHTED AN ENEMY WARSHIP.

A CRUISER!
WE'LL GO FOR
THAT!

NOW TO
TEST THE
OLD LIMPET
MINE!



THE OTHER CHARIOTEERS SOUGHT OUT THEIR OWN DESIGNATED AREA OF THE HARBOUR BASIN, FIXING THEIR DEADLY MINES TO THE BARNACLE-ENCRUSTED HULLS OF THE SHIPS THEY FOUND THERE.



Danger Dives Deep

THE HAZARDOUS OPERATION WAS PROCEEDING WITHOUT A HITCH WHEN SUDDENLY, DISASTER THREATENED . . .



THE LOOKOUT ON A GERMAN HARBOUR PATROL LAUNCH STARED, POP-EYED, AS A WEIRD, SINISTER SHAPE BROKE SURFACE NOT TWENTY YARDS AWAY FROM HIM.



Danger Dives Deep

THE ALARM HAD BEEN GIVEN -- THE HUNT WAS UP! SHARP UNDERWATER EXPLOSIONS SENT VIOLENT PRESSURE WAVES BEATING AT THE CHARIOTEERS' BODIES ...



THE SCREWS OF A PATROL BOAT THRASHED THE SURFACE AS IT SEARCHED FOR THE INVISIBLE ENEMY. THE MAIN PARTY WERE ALREADY HEADING TOWARDS THE HARBOUR ENTRANCE AND THE SAFETY OF THE OPEN SEA, WHEN SANDY STEWART SURFACED -- **AS A DECOY!**



Danger Dives Deep

A GRIM GAME OF TAG ENSUED... THE PRIZE WAS TIME ~~~
TIME OTHERS COULD USE TO MAKE A GETAWAY



AGAIN AND AGAIN THE CHARIOT FLIRTED WITH DEATH UNTIL A
SUDDEN AND UNEXPECTED DIVERSION PUT THE INFURIATED AND
RELENTLESS ENEMY OFF THE TRACK.



STEERING BY WRIST-COMPASS, STEWART INSTANTLY TOOK HIS HUMAN TORPEDO DOWN THROUGH THE NET DEFENCES ...



CLEAR OF THE HARBOUR, THE PAIR CAME UP FOR A STAR-SIGHT TO ENABLE THEM TO NAVIGATE BACK TO THEIR SUBMARINE ...



Danger Dives Deep

BUT *WARFISH* HAD A PROBLEM. SHE WAS SUBMERGED... HUNTING, AND BEING HUNTED!

SOUNDS LIKE A U-BOAT, SIR! ON OUR STARBOARD QUARTER ~~~ APPROACHING FAST!

SHE MUST HAVE HEARD US, TOO. STAND BY, FORWARD TORPEDO TUBES...



STEWART AND YOUNG FOUND A SUBMARINE... BUT IT WAS NOT *WARFISH*!

LUMME! WE'RE HOME!

NOT YET, TORPS, NOT EXACTLY! LOOK AT THAT CONNING TOWER! IT'S A JERRY!



THE SWEET TASTE OF VICTORY SUDDENLY BECAME BITTER IN THEIR MOUTHS -- BUT THEIR SPIRITS WERE UNDAUNTED.



EVEN AS LEADING-TORPEDOMAN YOUNG HURLED HIS RETORT IN THE NAZI'S TEETH, THE FIRST OF THE DELAYED-ACTION CHARGES WENT UP.



Chapter 3. MIGHTY MIDGETS

THE GERMANS WERE IN AN UGLY TEMPER AS THEY BUNDLED THEIR CAPTIVES BELOW.

HERR KAPITAN... WE HAVE CONTACTED ANOTHER UNDERSEABOAT! MOVING ACROSS OUR BOW...

AH! IT WILL BE A BRITISHER RETURNING FOR THESE TWO WE HOLD PRISONER. SILENT ROUTINE! WE'LL LAY IN WAIT!

WARFISH WAS MOVING FORWARD INTO MORTAL DANGER...

NO SOUND OF THE U-BOAT NOW, SIR! SHE MUST HAVE PASSED US!

EXCELLENT! WE'LL SURFACE AND SEARCH FOR STEWART AND YOUNG! UP PERISCOPE!

THE ENGLISHMEN ON THE U-BOAT WATCHED THE DEADLY ATTACK DEVELOP WITH ANGUISH IN THEIR HEARTS -- THEN, SUDDENLY, SANDY STEWART WHISPERED URGENTLY TO YOUNG ...



HE'LL GET WARFISH ~~~
UNLESS WE DO
SOMETHING!

STAND BY,
FORWARD
TORPEDO
TUBES!

SUDDENLY, ABOARD THE BRITISH SUBMARINE, THE SONAR OPERATOR LEAPT TO HIS FEET IN ASTONISHMENT.



YEEOW!
MY POOR
EARS! WHAT
A RACKET!

IT MUST BE THE U-BOAT!
QUICK, GIVE ME A BEARING ON
THAT NOISE! STAND BY TO
FIRE TORPEDOES!

Danger Dives Deep

STEWART HAD FOUND A WAY OF WARNING HIS COMRADES. HE AND YOUNG WERE HAMMERING THE STEEL HULL OF THE U-BOAT WITH SPANNERS THEY HAD SNATCHED FROM A RACK NEARBY.



KEEP IT UP,
TORPS ...!

SHOOT THEM
DOWN, YOU
FOOLS!

THE TABLES WERE TURNED ON THE ENEMY~~ WARFISH NOW HAD A TARGET ... **ONE SHE COULD HARDLY MISS!**

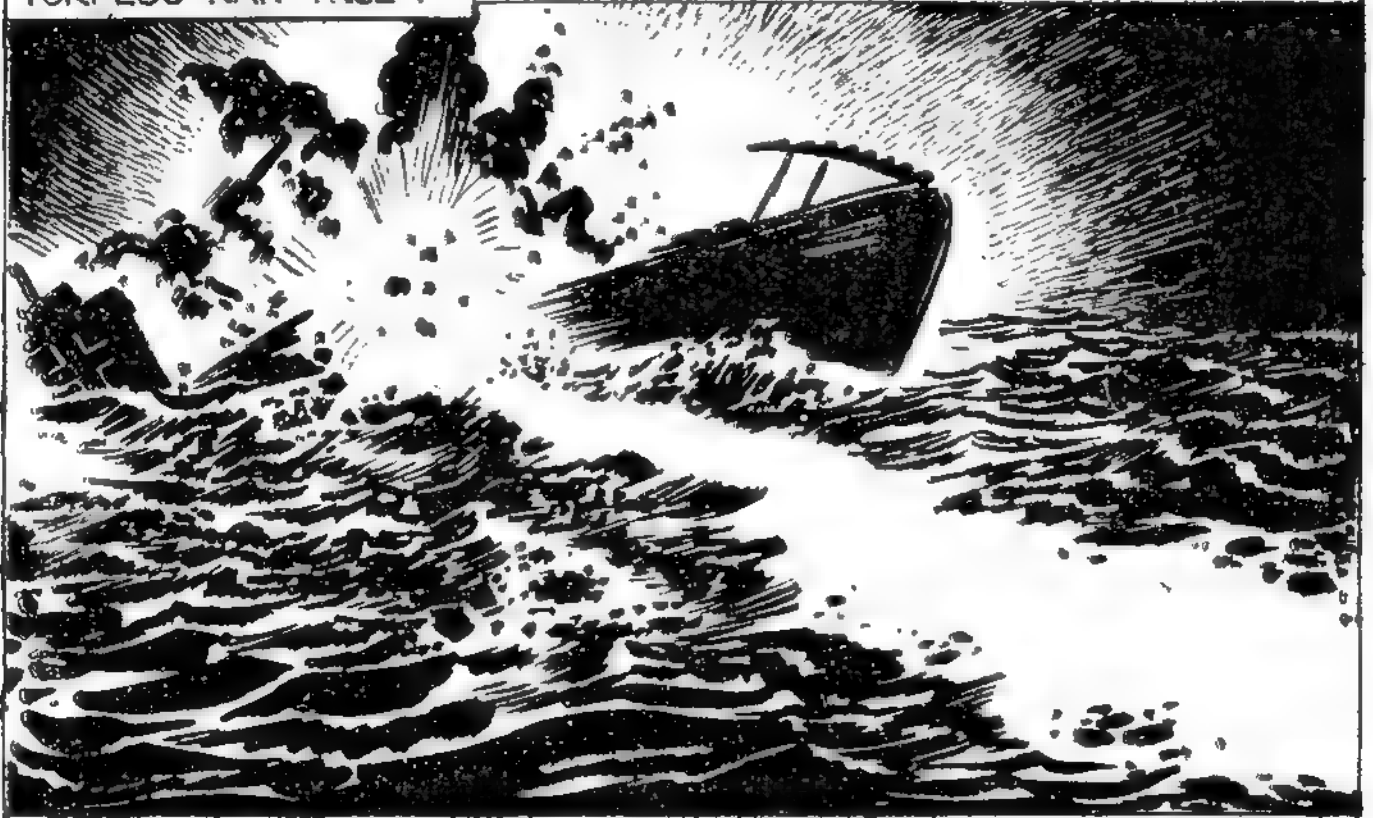
NOISE
BEARING
0-SEVEN-
FIVE
DEGREES,
SIR!

STEWART AND YOUNG~~
THEY MUST HAVE BEEN
PICKED UP BY A
U-BOAT~~ **YOU'LL
KILL THEM!**

I KNOW THAT
ONLY TOO WELL!
**BUT SO DO
THEY! FIRE!**



ALTHOUGH WARBURTON'S MIND MIGHT BE IN A TURMOIL AT THE DECISION HE HAD TO MAKE, HIS COMMAND WAS FIRMLY GIVEN -- AND THE TORPEDO RAN TRUE.



THE U-BOAT WAS RIVEN ASUNDER AND *WAR-FISH* CLOSED IN TO SEARCH FOR SURVIVORS. A HANDFUL OF SWIMMERS STRUGGLED IN THICK OIL...



EASY ON, GUNS!
I'VE HAD A TRYING
NIGHT....!

TORPS YOUNG!
MIGHT HAVE
KNOWN!

CHAT LATER,
YOU TWO...
IT'S COLD
IN THIS
WATER!

Danger Dives Deep

SO STEWART RETURNED ... HOPING THAT NOW HE HAD EARNED A SUBMARINE COMMAND OF HIS OWN ...

YOU SHOW GREAT APTITUDE FOR THIS SORT OF OPERATION, STEWART. YOU'VE BEEN RECOMMENDED FOR ANOTHER DECORATION!

I DON'T WANT ANOTHER DECORATION, SIR!
I WANT A SUBMARINE!

AH, WE'VE SOMETHING BETTER THAN THAT FOR YOU!



WE'VE JUST THE THING FOR A CLOAK AND DAGGER FELLOW LIKE YOURSELF ...
YOU ARE TO TRAIN A FLOTILLA OF MIDGET SUBMARINES UP TO OPERATIONAL STANDARDS!



SANDY STEWART STUMBLED OUT INTO THE ROAR OF LONDON'S TRAFFIC ... TO FIND OLD FRIENDS WAITING ...

AT YOUR SERVICE, SIR!



YOU BIRDS OF EVIL-OMEN!
LOOKS AS IF I'M SADDLED WITH YOU FOR LIFE!

SO THE TRIO OF UNDERWATER COMMANDOS SET-TO TO LICK INTO SHAPE A BRAND-NEW FLOTILLA OF X-CRAFT... BRITAIN'S AMAZING MIDGET SUBS ...



Danger Dives Deep

DEEPLY DISAPPOINTED THOUGH HE HAD BEEN, STEWART PUT HIS DUTY FIRST, THROWING ALL HIS ENERGIES INTO THE TRAINING OF THE NEW UNDERSEA FORCE.

STEWART'S WORKED WONDERS
WITH HIS MIDGETS ...

THAT'S WHY
I'M HERE!
I'VE GOT A
JOB FOR
HIM!



A RADIO CALL WENT OUT FROM SHORE
TO MIDGET SUB X-100 ...

FLOTILLA OFFICE
CALLING, SKIPPER!
THEY WANT
YOU THERE
AT ONCE!

FOR ME?

COULD BE
A SUBMARINE
COMMAND! THE
FLOTILLA'S UP
TO SCRATCH...



WITHOUT CHANGING INTO UNIFORM, HIS HANDS AND FACE STILL SMEARED WITH THE GRIME OF THE MIDGET SUB, STEWART HURRIED ASHORE ...



...COASTAL COMMAND HAS SUNK A GERMAN BLOCKADE-RUNNER ACROSS THE CHANNEL. SHE LAYS IN TEN FATHOMS, HALF A MILE NORTH OF LE HAVRE. IT WOULD BE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO LAY OUR HANDS ON HER LOG BOOK AND SECRET PAPERS ...



... IN THE CAPTAIN'S SAFE WILL BE INFORMATION RELATING TO ENEMY COMMERCE RAIDERS AND U-BOATS AT SEA AT THE PRESENT MOMENT. THIS VESSEL WAS ON HER WAY TO SUPPLY THEM ...



Danger Dives Deep

STEWART REALISED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE MISSION HE WAS TO UNDERTAKE ... **AND THE DANGER!**



SIX HOURS LATER, X-100 WAS CREEPING UNDERWATER TOWARDS GERMAN-OCCUPIED LE HAVRE ...



STEWART DONNED FULL FROGMAN KIT AND THEN THE ESCAPE COMPARTMENT WAS FLOODED TO ALLOW ACCESS TO THE OUTSIDE UNDERWATER WORLD ...

I HOPED TO
COMMAND A
SUB ... NOW
I'M THE
BLOOMING
SUBMARINE !



THE EERIE-LOOKING FIGURE EMERGED INTO THE MURKY GREEN DEPTHS.



Danger Dives Deep

HARLOW HAD BEEN RIGHT -- A LARGE WRECK LAY ON ITS SIDE NEARBY. AS STEWART SWAM SMOOTHLY TOWARDS IT, HE SAW THAT THE HULL AND UPPER WORKS WERE AS YET UNTOUCHED BY BARNACLES AND MARINE GROWTH.

HASN'T BEEN
HERE LONG -- IT
FITS THE DESCRIPTION
OF THE BLOCKADE
RUNNER... NOW
TO FIND THE
CAPTAIN'S OFFICE --
**AND THOSE
NAZI PAPERS!**



PATIENTLY, HARLOW AND YOUNG WAITED IN THE MIDGET SUBMARINE ... THE AIR GREW WARM AND FOUL ... TIME PASSED SLOWLY BUT REMORSELESSLY .



HAMPERED BY A LEAKING AIR VALVE, STEWART WAS SEARCHING STILL... IN THE TOPSY-TURVY WORLD OF THE SHIP RESTING, AS IT WAS, ON ITS SIDE .



Danger Dives Deep

A HEAVE OF HIS SHOULDER OPENED THE DOOR OF THE CAPTAIN'S OFFICE ...

THE SHIP'S
SAFE! I'LL HAVE
TO BLOW IT
OPEN!



THE FROGMAN PACKED UNDERWATER EXPLOSIVE AROUND THE SAFE AND RETREATED ...



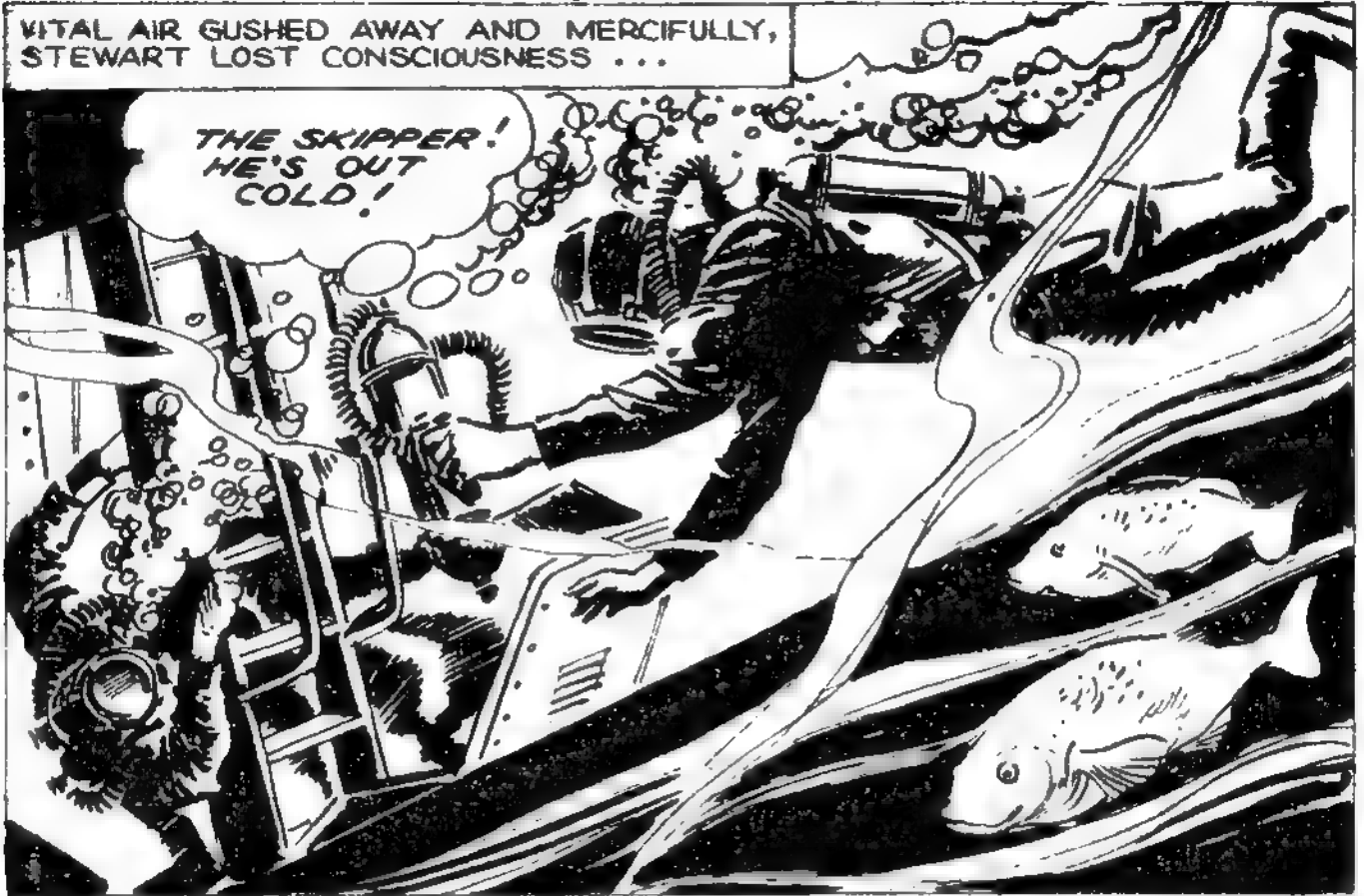
... BUT A FREAK
PRESSURE WAVE TORE A
LADDER LOOSE AND
STEWART WAS TRAPPED
BENEATH IT!

Danger Dives Deep

47

VITAL AIR GUSHED AWAY AND MERCIFULLY,
STEWART LOST CONSCIOUSNESS ...

THE SKIPPER!
HE'S OUT
COLD!



YOUNG EXPERTLY REPLACED THE FAULTY LUNG,
AN UNDERWATER SKILL THE FRIENDS HAD
PRACTISED SINCE THEIR TRAINING DAYS ..

JUST IN TIME!
AND NOW TO
FIND OUT WHAT
THE SKIPPER WAS
BLASTING!



Danger Dives Deep

THE EXPLOSION HAD RIPPED THE DOOR OFF THE SAFE, EXPOSING A NUMBER OF BOOKS AND PAPERS.



WHEN SANDY STEWART OPENED HIS EYES, HE FOUND HIMSELF IN THE TINY, INSTRUMENT-FILLED WORLD OF THE MIDGET SUBMARINE...



Chapter 4 UNDERWATER COMMANDOS

THE MIDGET SUBMARINES HAD PROVED THEMSELVES AND IN THE FOLLOWING VIOLENT YEARS, THEY PERFORMED ONE PERILOUS MISSION AFTER ANOTHER. BUT THE OLD YEARNING FOR A SUBMARINE COMMAND HAD NEVER LEFT SANDY STEWART; HIS X-CRAFT FLOTILLA HAD DISTINGUISHED ITSELF BEFORE AND AFTER D-DAY, 1944...

A FINE BODY
OF MEN, STEWART.
A CREDIT TO
YOU

THEY'RE GETTING
RESTLESS, SIR. NOW
THAT THE TIRPITZ IS
SUNK AND THE FRENCH
HARBOURS RE-CAPTURED..
WE'VE NO TARGETS
LEFT IN EUROPE!

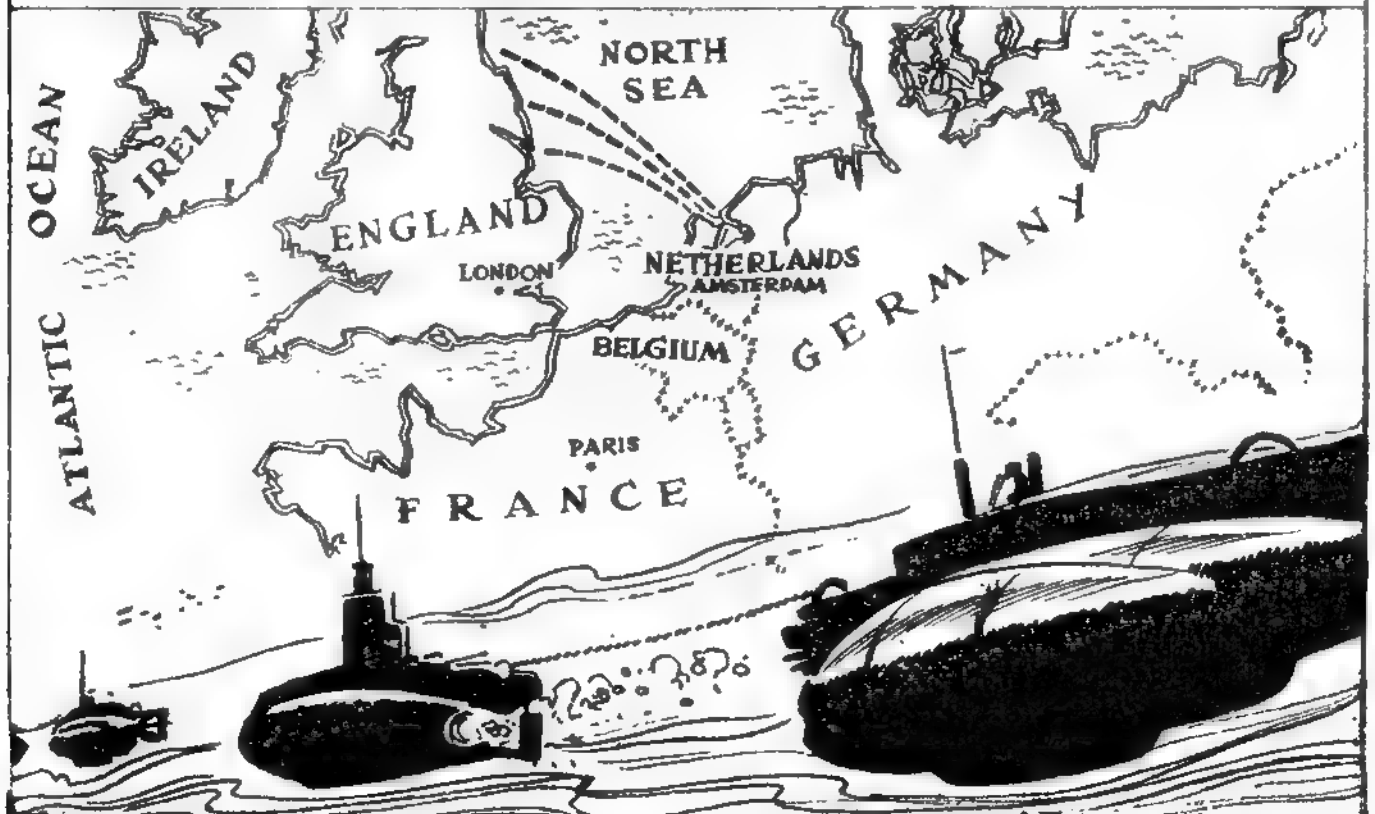




THE X-CRAFT CREWS WERE QUICKLY BRIEFED FOR THEIR STRANGE NEW ROLE -- MIDGET SUBS AGAINST THE GERMAN ARMY!



X-100 AND HER SISTERS WERE TOWED ACROSS THE NORTH SEA BY MOTHER CRAFT. FROM THE DUTCH COAST INLAND TO THE FLOODED BATTLEFIELDS THEY WERE ON THEIR OWN.



Danger Dives Deep

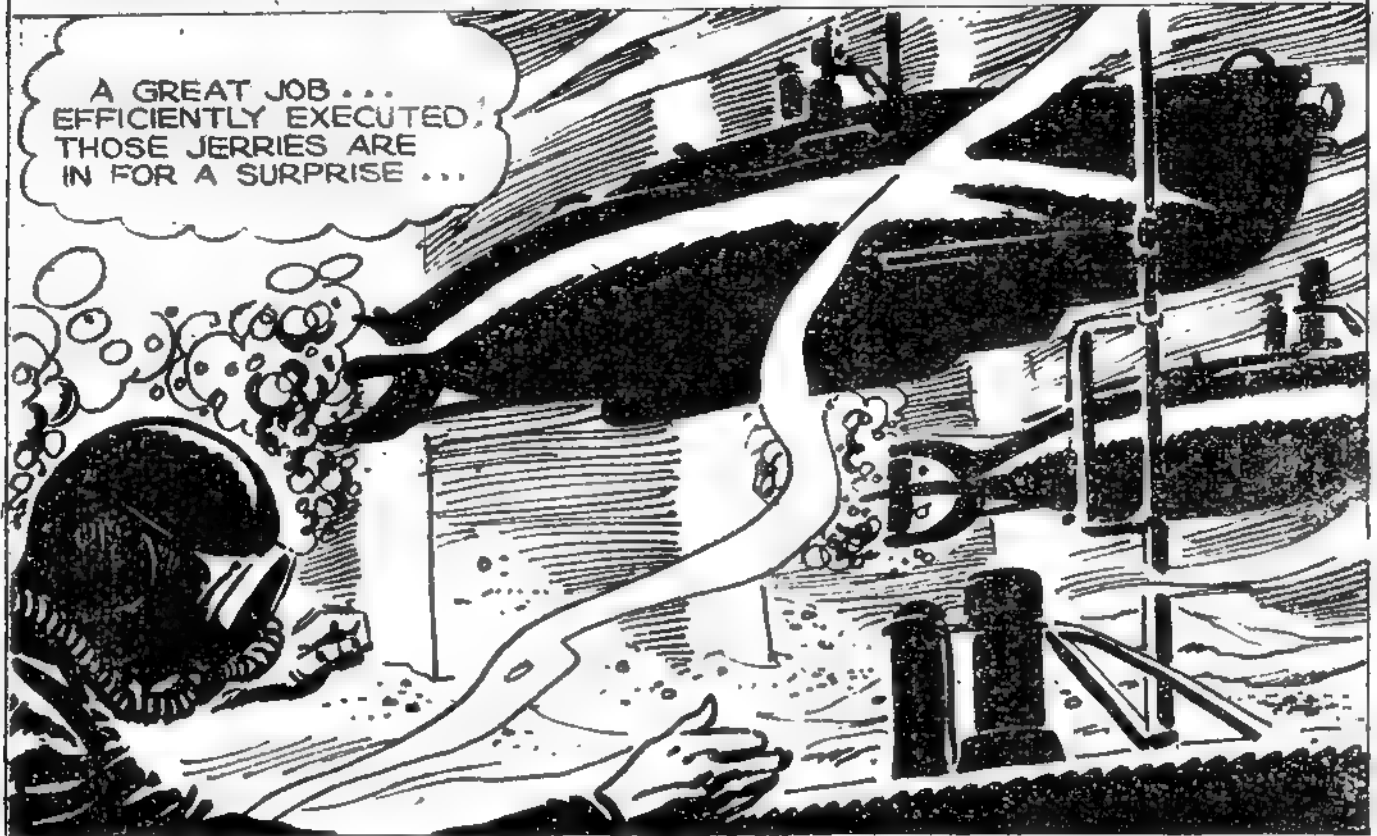
FIRST TASK OF THE FLOTILLA WAS TO WRECK BRIDGES OVER WHICH THE ENEMY WERE POURING REINFORCEMENTS INTO THE BATTLE AREA ... HOLDING UP THE ALLIED ADVANCE ...



BUT ON THE RIVER BED, FAR BELOW THE BRIDGE CARRYING THE NAZI MECHANISED MIGHT, STEWART AND HIS MEN WERE AT WORK ...



THE CHARGES LAID, THE MIDGETS WITHDREW TO A SAFER QUARTER, WHILE THE GERMAN TRANSPORT AND ARMOUR RUMBLED UNSUSPECTINGLY ABOVE THEM.



WITH VIOLENT SUDDENNESS THE BRIDGE SUPPORTS WERE SHATTERED AND VEHICLES AND MEN WERE HURLED HELPLESSLY INTO THE WATER.



Danger Dives Deep

FORWARD BRITISH PATROLS RUBBED THEIR EYES AS THE GLADDENING SIGHT WAS REPEATED ALONG THE ESTUARY, SEALING OFF THE GERMAN TROOPS IN THE AREA BEFORE THEM.



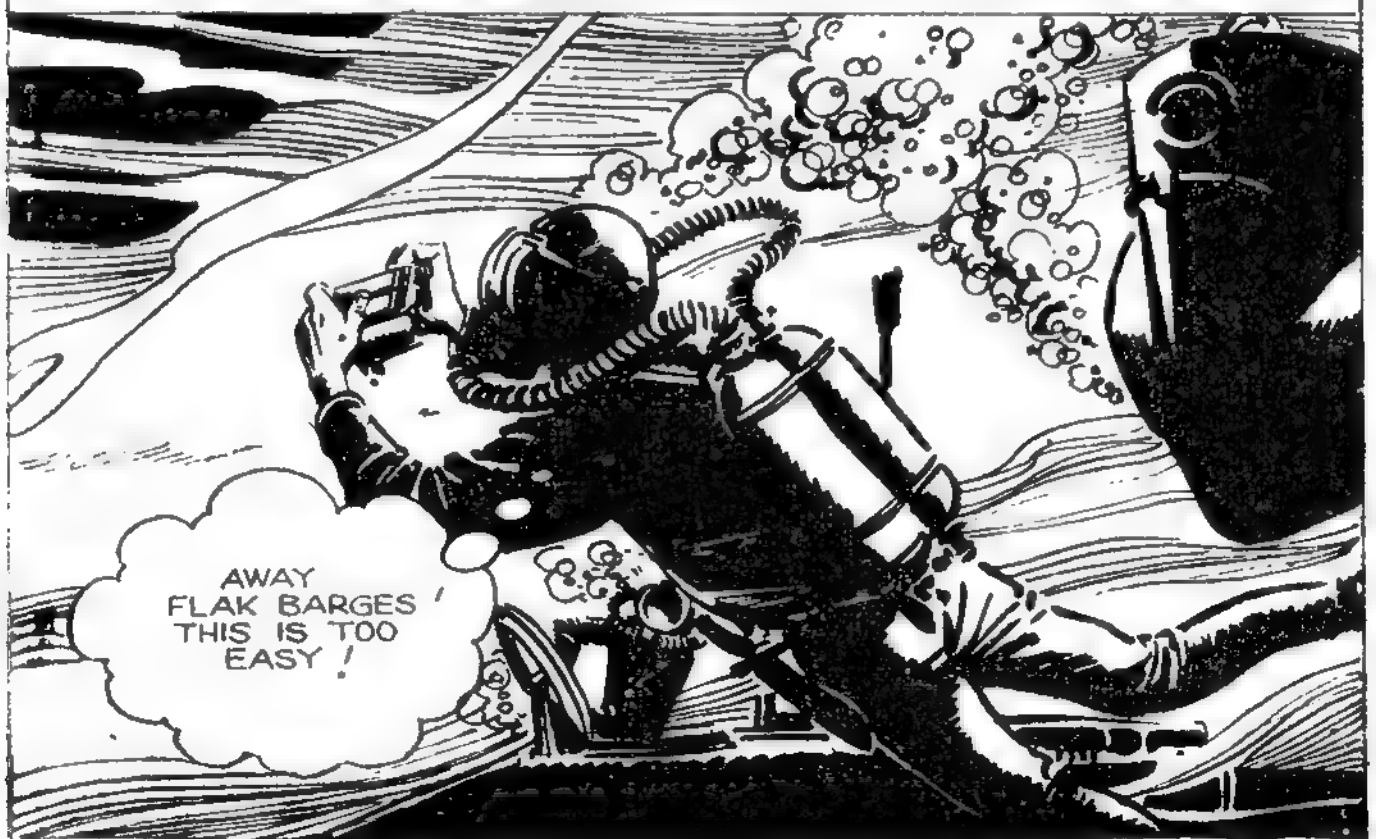
GERMAN REINFORCEMENTS WERE PILING UP AT THE FAR SIDE OF THE BLOWN BRIDGES AND THE R.A.F. WERE QUICK TO SENSE A REWARDING TARGET. BUT THE DESPERATE ENEMY FOUGHT BACK SAVAGELY ...



SANDY STEWART SNAPPED SWIFT ORDERS OVER THE FLOTILLA RADIO....



TRAINING AND DISCIPLINE. AT SUCH MOMENTS THEY WERE ALL-IMPORTANT.



Danger Dives Deep

SURPRISED BRITISH AIRMEN WATCHED THE DEATH-DEALING BARGES DISINTEGRATE, ONE AFTER THE OTHER . . .

WOW!
AMMO MUST
HAVE GONE UP!
WHAT A STROKE
OF LUCK FOR
US!



ACROSS THE SWOLLEN, BRIDGELESS EXPANSES OF WATER, THE DETERMINED ENEMY SOUGHT OTHER METHODS TO KEEP THEIR BATTLE-FRONT SUPPLIED, FOR THE ALLIES WERE ON THE VERY THRESHOLD OF GERMANY.



THE UNORTHODOX GERMAN ARMADA DID NOT ESCAPE THE NOTICE OF X-FLOTILLA ...



Danger Dives Deep

WHAT ENSUED MUST SURELY HAVE BEEN
THE STRANGEST BATTLE OF WORLD
WAR TWO!

TRY THAT,
YOU DRY-LAND
SAILORS!



THE UNDERWATER COMMANDOS PROVED THEMSELVES AS GOOD FIGHTERS ABOVE SURFACE AS THEY WERE SABOTEURS OF THE DEEP ...



THE X-FLOTILLA HAD ITS CASUALTIES, TOO, FOR A DIRECT HIT FROM A TANK GUN COULD SHATTER A MIDGET SUB.



Danger Dives Deep

TO THE VICTORS ~ THE SPOILS OF BATTLE ...



WHEN THE BRITISH ARMY ADVANCED TO THE ESTUARY AGAINST THE ENEMY'S WEAKENING RESISTANCE, THEY FOUND IT IN GOOD HANDS!



SANDY STEWART'S MEN HAD EARNED THE SPECIAL LEAVE GRANTED TO THEM...

THERE GO A **GREAT** BUNCH OF FIGHTING SAILORS!

...AND THEY STILL HAVE A JOB TO DO...



Danger Dives Deep

SO STEWART, TOO, WENT ON LEAVE AND HIS CUP OF HAPPINESS SHOULD HAVE BEEN FILLED TO OVERFLOWING, FOR AT LAST HE HAD THE CHANCE TO COMMAND AN OCEAN-GOING SUBMARINE ...

... AND THEY'VE OFFERED ME *WARFISH*! SKIPPER OF THE FINEST SUBMARINE IN ANY FLEET ... THAT'S WHAT I'VE ALWAYS WANTED!



BUT THERE WAS A NAGGING LITTLE UNCERTAINTY IN STEWART'S MIND -- SOMETHING HE COULD NOT QUITE PLACE.

SANDY! TWO OLD SHIPMATES WISH TO SPEAK WITH YOU A MOMENT ...

BRING 'EM IN! WE'RE CELEBRATING MY --- MY NEW COMMAND!



YOUNG AND HARLOW AWKWARDLY JOINED THE GROUP OF OFFICERS ...

JUST COME TO SAY CHEERIO, SIR! WE LEAVE FOR THE FAR EAST SOON ...

AYE, WE'LL BE UNDER WAY SOON AS THEY FIND ANOTHER FLOTILLA OFFICER ...



AND SUDDENLY LIEUTENANT-COMMANDER STEWART KNEW WHAT HE WANTED TO DO MOST ...

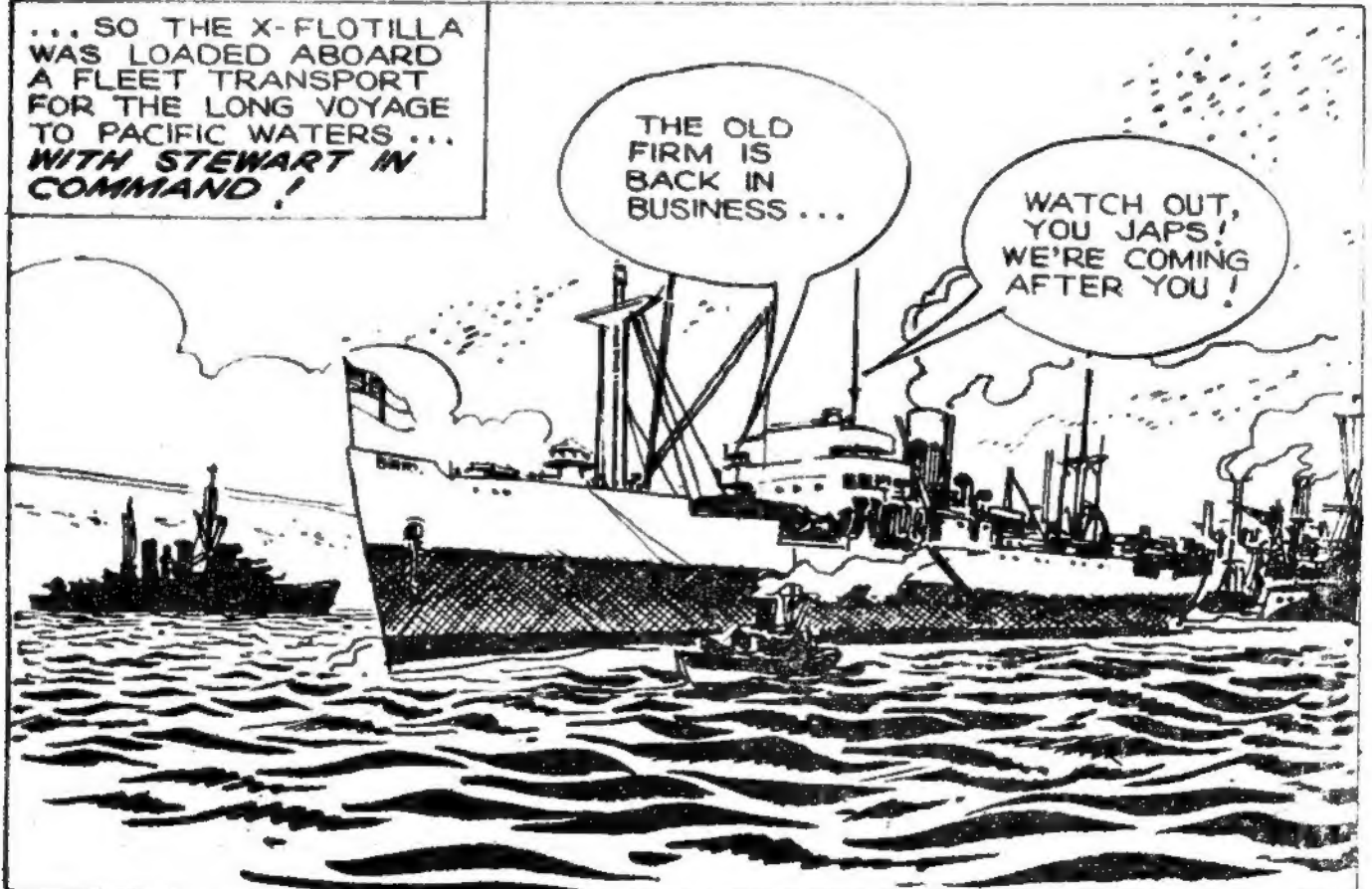
FIND ANOTHER FLOTILLA OFFICER ...
**NEVER! WHAT'S WRONG
WITH THE ONE YOU'VE
GOT ?**



... SO THE X-FLOTILLA WAS LOADED ABOARD A FLEET TRANSPORT FOR THE LONG VOYAGE TO PACIFIC WATERS ...
**WITH STEWART IN
COMMAND !**

THE OLD
FIRM IS
BACK IN
BUSINESS ...

WATCH OUT,
YOU JAPS!
WE'RE COMING
AFTER YOU !



Danger Dives Deep

SOON THE MIGHTY MIDGETS MADE THEIR PRESENCE FELT ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD . . .



...LED IN EVERY ATTACK BY A FEARLESS OFFICER, WHO MIGHT HAVE BEEN A FIRST CLASS SUBMARINE COMMANDER, BUT WAS, INSTEAD, THE INSPIRATION OF THAT FIGHTING FORCE WITHOUT EQUAL. **THE UNDERWATER COMMANDOS!**

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